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HILEA'S SCHOOL FOR PRACTICAL THINGS

Where Children Are
Taught To Work

And Make Their Surroundings More Attractive--Grounds Improved--Seismograph and Sun Dial Instruct and Entertain

If you would know of some of the best work that has been done by any public school of the Territory, Superintendent Babbitt would very likely call your attention to the exhibit of the Hilea school in the improvement of its grounds.

A few days ago Mr. Babbitt received a letter from the principal of the school enclosing photographs of the school grounds as they were a year ago, and now. The photo of the grounds today is produced but unfortunately that of the old rock-ribbed areas was too dim to reproduce. Mr. Babbitt says it is the greatest transformation he has ever seen. The pupils have done wonders.

But the grounds are not the only field of activity. A home-made seismograph records the tremors of the earth, a sun dial marks the time and an anemometer records the speed of the wind. If these instruments are not scientifically accurate, they are at least a splendid education for the children both in the making and the use.

The letter accompanying the photographs follows:

Honolulu, Hawaii, Dec. 6, 1909.
Mr. W. H. Babbitt,
Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Honolulu.

Dear Sir:—I am sending you by this mail, under separate cover, a few photos showing changes made on the Hilea school grounds during the past few years. Much of the manual work done here makes little or no showing on the Principal's monthly report, hence the photographs as proof that we are not asleep, though we are in "Sleepy Hollow." I will also, for once, trespass on your time to give a few details concerning the work done.

Three of the prints show the grounds in 1905, 1907 and 1909. With the exceptions of moving the smaller school building over to adjoin the teacher's cottage and erecting the new school house, all of the changes shown in the photographs were made by our boys, with no expense to the Department but for tools and a little lumber.

The carpenter shop, built with the lumber from the old school house, and just started when you were here, was completed that year and is quite an addition to the appearance of the yard as well as very useful. The building is 20 by 30 feet and in erecting it only the best of the lumber from the old house was used. The door and window casings are all new and were made by the boys. The outside is white-washed, but tinted to correspond with the paint on the new school house, while the trimmings are painted to match.

All the rock has been removed from the high places in the yard by means of sledge hammer and wedges, and as it was solid pahoehoe, the work was hard and slow. As the stone was removed the spots were covered with soil and grass planted. Now, there is not a bare spot in the yard, and the saving in baked skins makes it well worth while.

The terrace, (our particular pride)

is half of an ellipse in outline, its axis major measuring 130 feet and its semi-axis minor 36 feet. Building it, and filling in and leveling behind it took us a little over a year. Some of the soil used in covering it had to be taken from the lower lot, making a very long haul for the wheel barrows. Some of the soil came from a gully in back of our cottage, and when the terrace was completed, we had the gully to fill up again, for which we used a-a from the adjoining flow. The front of the terrace has been planted with ivy, and the top with Lemon Grass for a border.

The mold for the pedestal of the sun dial was made in the shop by the boys, and they also brought up from the beach, a few pounds each morning, the sand used in mixing the concrete. The Department supplied the cement, the gnomon was cast for us free of charge at the Pahala Mill, and the dial, a slab of slate one inch thick and twenty-two inches square, I bought and laid out.

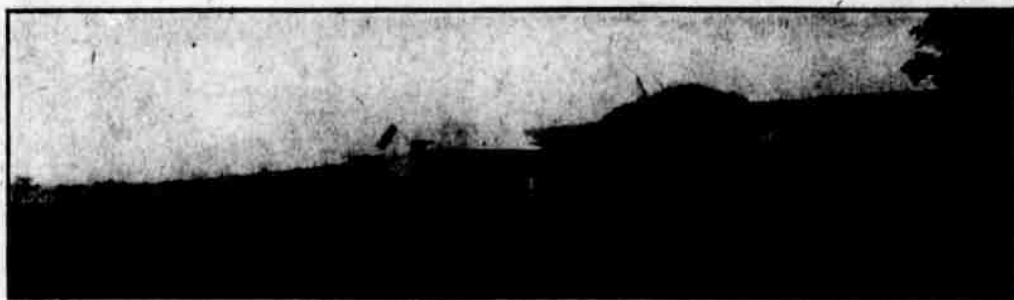


Seismograph Home-Made by Pupils of Hilea School.

The meteorological instruments are home made of course. The "Robinson's Anemometer" was made with telephone bells as the hemispherical cups we could neither make nor buy. The revolutions per minute of the hand on its dial gives (or rather, is supposed to give) the velocity of the wind in miles per hour. The rain gauge is only a glass bottle with hard rubber funnel and a straight lamp chimney, plugged on one end, for a measuring glass. The combined weather vane and pendulum anemometer is mounted over a large painted compass dial, and gives at a glance both the direction and force of the wind.

The "thornless" algaroba tree shown is one of three hundred cuttings set out on Arbor Day of last year. They started and grew well at first, but the long drought killed all but eighteen. This year, on Arbor Day, we set out two hundred

SCHOOL HOUSE AND GROUNDS OF HILEA PUBLIC SCHOOL.
Only a few months ago the grounds of this school consisted mainly of coral and lava rock with a few patches of soil. The Principal with the cooperation of his pupils has had earth brought in and a splendid turf now covers what was formerly a rough and barren site.



cuttings again and hope for better results. These "cuttings" are simply small branches taken from two thornless trees near here, and cut up in fourteen inch lengths. The upper end of these is disposed in grafting wax to check evaporation, and planted. We hope in time, to have several hundred of these thornless trees growing here and besides acting as wind breaks and furnishing shade, they will supply fuel and horse feed for my successors. We have tried planting the seeds from these thornless trees, but found that nearly all of the young plants reverted to the original type and had thorns.

Five Years ago, the Hilea school lot was the least attractive of any in the district, as former teachers were handicapped by lack of tools. Our improvements (parlor the con-



Record of Seismograph Made by Pupils of Hilea School.

celt) have enabled us to catch up with the others one by one, till now our yard is as pretty as any. In time, we hope to have it a place that

will be noted and remembered by every passing traveler.

As a matter of possible personal interest to yourself, I am sending also a few photos and records of a seismograph, which is as far as I know, the first and only one on the island. My desire was to build an instrument which would record on a revolving cylinder both of the horizontal as well as the vertical component, but the lack of a lathe compelled me to abandon that idea and construct the simpler one shown. If its records have no scientific value, they are at least of interest.

I find that this has run to an undue length but must plead in extenuation both its subject, and the fact that this is a first offense.

Respectfully yours,
H. E. WILSON,
Prin. Hilea School.

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RECREATIONS

The principal amusement houses of Honolulu have arranged special Christmas eve programs. The merry makers who tire of throwing confetti on the streets will find the vaudeville and picture shows splendid places to visit during the evening, as they will offer a place for both rest and entertainment. The different houses having special Christmas Eve programs are the Empire, Art, Bonine, Park, Novelty and the New Dance Hall.

PARK THEATER.

The program at the Park Theater, this evening promises to be an especially good one. The orchestra, under the direction of F. J. Vierra, will render the following selections:

Selection from San Toy—Sidney Jones
Waltz—A Dream of Pearls Hall
Sacred Song—The Holy City ... Adams
Cornet solo by G. J. Boisse.
Entre Acte 2A—Garden Matinee. Frind
Luna Waltz Paul Linke
Ave Maria Gounod
Cornet solo by G. J. Boisse.
March—Algeria Victor Herbert
Sig. Travato will sing "The New-Born King," sacred song.

The Dramatic Mirror, in reviewing "Won in the Desert," the feature film for this evening, says: Great care has been taken in making it as elaborate as possible. The scenic effects are in most part worthy of praise and the prodigal use of camels, horses and lions gives the picture a strong and unexpected realism. A young Chicago girl is travelling with her parents in Europe and upon arriving at one of the seaports on the Red Sea meets an old acquaintance stationed there as officer on the U. S. S. Panther. An Arabic sheikh, King of the Desert, becomes enamored with the girl and abducts her. The kidnapping is discovered and the officer and marines follow. A fight ensues and the girl and rescuing party retreat. They are in turn followed until the destruction of a bridge by the marines prevents further bloodshed. The girl is safely returned to her parents, but the ship is ordered back home immediately and the young couple parted at the beginning of their interesting romance. On board ship the officer receives a wireless message from the girl advising him of her father's consent to their marriage and telling him to resign at once and meet them in Chicago. Such a procedure is rather improbable, but is, of course, possible. The fight over the bride and its destruction might have been more vivid and thrilling, had they been able to secure real outdoor scenic surroundings. Much deserving praise and comment from the audience was heard on all sides, proving to be a subject of uncommon interest.

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stages of completion. A number of interesting Hawaiian ranch scenes will soon be in readiness, and will undoubtedly be of great interest here in the islands, and a surprise to people of other parts of the world.

NOVELTY THEATER.

The "Arrival of Santa Claus," is the sketch at the Novelty tonight and tomorrow night and the title is certainly suggestive enough of Christmas. The sketch was written by Happy Jack Walker, the versatile comedian who is filling an engagement at this theater. Miss Jeanette Cooper will dance as usual and the picture program will be good.

CHRISTMAS EVE DANCE.

When you are tired of walking the streets tonight with the Christmas eve carnival throng, pay a visit to the New Dance Hall on Kukui street. You will find the floor and music excellent and even if you do not wish to dance you will enjoy watching the dancers. While this is a public dance, good order is always maintained and you and your friends will be welcomed.

A COLLECTION OF AEROPLANES.

Who in town has seen an aeroplane meet, i. e., as we know a bicycle meet, or an athletic meet, an automobile meet—few indeed probably. Well the Art has a film on for today and tomorrow describing such a thing in aeroplanes. Imagine if you can a large enclosure where these giant ships of space are confined, pending their flight into the upper regions. Great huge skeletons, half bird, half balloon, or boat as the case may be. After due inspection these creations of human mind are unloosed, and away they go, off and up into space, at the sweet will of the operator as to direction and speed. A comparatively few years ago and one would have deemed fit for the lunatic asylum who would have dared advance any such suggestion even. Yet today these machines are an accomplished fact and of more or less practicability. This display of aeroplanes and their aerial stunts are well worth seeing and as the old time "side-show" Barker used to say, "worth double the price of admission."

There is no reason why they should not have no-legged politicians to make stump speeches. — Philadelphia Bulletin.

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50 HIGHEST AWARDS IN EUROPE AND AMERICA

EMPIRE THEATER.
After a long illness May Wallace is to return to the Empire tonight to delight once more the audiences there. The Kahului twins retire and Miss Galloway holds over. Midwinter Sports in Michigan will be shown in motion pictures just to let the people of Honolulu see the difference between Christmas in the Middle West and in Paradise. There are races on skates and races with dogs drawing sledges. The Tom Boy discards straight-laced formality of her home town and goes to the city where she has the time of her life. It is a new world to her and she is making the best of it. Sweet and Twenty is a pretty little comedy where love's young dream is presented in a dainty manner. The show is a good one and the business has vastly improved of late.

THE BONINE.

There will be another change tonight in the fascinating list of animated scenes that has been on at The Bonine for the past several days, and another still greater change planned for tomorrow evening, when an interesting lot of new local scenes will be put on for the first time. Catching the man-eating shark will be one of more than ordinary interest wherever exhibited, as will also the hula or native Hawaiian dance, and many other very interesting scenes now in various